

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 USIA-12 AF-10 ARA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-10

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SUBJECT: US MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO

REF: STATE 056794

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. U. S. INTENTION TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP EUROPEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL GROUPS DISCUSSED WITH MFA OFFICIAL WHO IN TURN STATED NEW ZEALAND DESIROUS OF SEEKING MEMBERSHIP IN ASIAN GROUP TOGETHER WITH AUSTRALIA. HOWEVER, LACK OF AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION HAS DIMMED PROSPECTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SUBSTANCE REFTEL WAS DISCUSSED WITH HEAD, UN DIVISION, MFA, DAVID MCDOWELL. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY WHETHER GNZ ALSO PLANS TO SEEK REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP AT APRIL EXBD MEETING, MCDOWELL STATED SUBJECT HAS BEEN UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION RECENTLY WITHIN MFA AND BI-LATERALLY WITH AUSTRALIA. GNZ BELIEVES BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND INCREASING NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA INTEREST IN ASIA THAT MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE SOUGHT IN ASIAN RATHER THAN EUROPEAN GROUP.

3. UNTIL RECENTLY GNZ HAD THOUGHT AUSTRALIA COULD BE
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PERSUADED TO JOIN WITH GNZ IN SEEKING MEMBERSHIP IN ASIAN GROUP. HOWEVER, GNZ HAS JUST LEARNED THAT AUSTRALIA WILL NOT JOIN WITH GNZ IN THE FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING GOA BID FOR MEMBERSHIP ON UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD.

4. EMBOFF REFERRED TO PROPOSED U. S. ACTION REGARDING PARTICIPATDE.

B. SOME PRODUCTS WHICH ROC WANTS TO BUY FROM US ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT COMPETITIVE PRICES HERE (SULFUR, NICKEL GOODS) AND THERE IS SUCH TIGHT DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR OTHERS (WOOD PULP, MOST STEEL MILL PRODUCTS) THAT WE PROBABLY CANNOT SUPPLY THEM FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS. THEREFORE, US SIDE PLANS TO SUGGEST TO Y. T. WONG UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON APRIL 17-19 ADDITIONAL ITEMS THAT ROC MAY WISH TO CONSIDER BUYING FROM US.

C. WE ARE PLEASED THAT ROC HAS NOW DECONTROLLED ALMOST ALL IMPORTS, BUT WE NOTE THAT IT STILL MAINTAINS FAIRLY HIGH TARIFFS ON SOME DECONTROLLED ITEMS (E. G., MANMADE- FIBER TEXTILES), EFFECTIVELY MAINTAINING PROTECTION. WE HOPE THAT TARIFF RATES WILL BE LOWERED.

2. WONG REALIZED THAT PURCHASE OF US AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN LARGER THAN USUAL AMOUNTS PRESENTED FEW DIFFICULTIES BUT THAT PROCUREMENT OF MANUFACTURED AND SEMI- MANUFACTURED GOODS NOT TRADITIONALLY IMPORTED FROM US WAS HARDER TO WORK OUT.

3. DEPARTMENT AGREED TO HIS REQUEST THAT WE PROVIDE PRELIMINARY LIST OF SOME MAJOR ITEMS ON ROC SHOPPING LIST FOR WHICH DUTIES APPEAR EXORBITANT IN ORDER THAT WONG MAY DISCUSS THESE WITH GRC. BECAUSE WASHINGTON AGENCIES DO NOT HAVE FULL INFORMATION ABOUT TARIFF CHANGES OF JULY 22, 1972, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO GIVE WONG SOME EXAMPLES. ITEMS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE PRESENTED LESS PROBLEM; ROC COULD OBTAIN IN FUTURE.

4. BARGER SUGGESTED THAT PERIODIC BILATERAL REVIEW, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERHAPS QUARTERLY, OF PROGRESS MADE IN INCREASING

ROC PURCHASES FROM US MIGHT BE USEFUL. WONG LIKED
IDEA AND SUGGESTED THAT INFORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN
AMEMBASSY OFFICERS AND ROC AGENCIES WOULD HELP ACQUAINT
BOTH SIDES WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND EASE SOLUTIONS.

5. WONG THOUGHT SEVERAL STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO
INCREASE US EXPORTS TO ROC AND THAT THESE MIGHT BE
CONSIDERED FURTHER AT SUCH MEETINGS. USG COULD GIVE
TAX BENEFITS TO EXPORTERS AND MODIFY ANTITRUST
LAWS AS THESE APPLY TO EXPORTERS. US EXPORT- IMPORT
FIRMS COULD ESTABLISH CLOSER LINKS WITH EXPORT- IMPORT
FIRMS IN TAIWAN. US COMPANIES COULD APPLY TO ROC FOR
APPROVAL OF INVESTMENT IN PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES
SELLING LOCALLY AS WELL AS ABROAD; BY MAKING GREATER
USE OF JOINT VENTURES WITH LOCAL PEOPLE, AMERICAN
COMPANIES COULD SELL MORE READILY TO TAIWAN MARKET AND

UTILIZE LOCAL CONNECTIONS WITH OVERSEAS CHINESE
BUSINESSMEN TO DEVELOP MARKETS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,
RATHER THAN EXPORT MOST OF THEIR PRODUCTION TO US AS
THEY NOW DO.

6. AFTER MEETING, MINISTER WONG ASKED THAT ABOVE IDEAS
NOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO HIM SINCE Y. T. WONG AND NOT HE WAS
IN CHARGE OF TRADE DEVELOPMENT. EA/ ROC WILL INCLUDE SOME
OF THEM IN TALKING POINTS AS US IDEAS WHEN Y. T. WONG
MEETS ADDITIONAL US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS
MONTH.

7. MINISTER WONG WILL BE IN TAIPEI APRIL 9-24 AND
AGAIN BRIEFLY AFTER ADB MEETING TO BE HELD IN MANILA
APRIL 26-28. HE PLANS CONTACT ECONCOUNSELOR MORELL.
WONG WILL STAY AT AMBASSADOR HOTEL IN TAIPEI.

ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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